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ON THE SKULL OF HIS FATHER'S MURDERER, HE SWORE A LIFETIME OF VENGEANCE AGAINST PIRACY AND INJUSTICE. THIS MAN WAS THE FIRST PHANTOM!
SON FOLLOWED FATHER IN AN UNBROKEN LINE, AND THE PHANTOM LIVES ON EVEN TODAY! OUR STORY, HOWEVER, IS NOT OF THE PHANTOM OF THIS ERA, BUT OF ONE LONG PAST....
IN THE LATE 1700'S, THE LUCRATIVE SLAVE TRADE BROUGHT MANY PIRATES INLAND. THEY SWEPT ACROSS AFRICA, UNCHALLENGED EXCEPT BY ONE MAN....

THE PHANTOM Vol. 10, No. 74, January, 1977.
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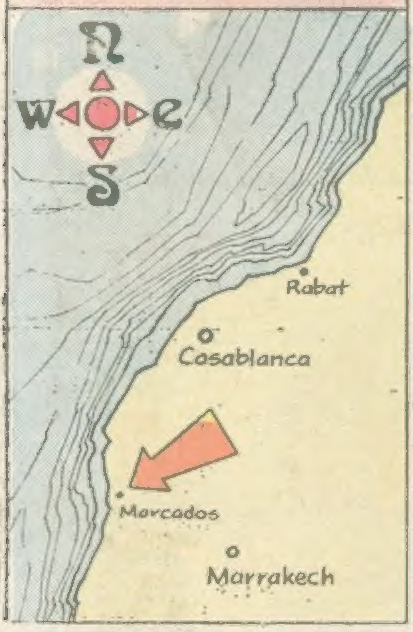
THE PHANTOM OF
AN EXHAUSTED NATIVE RUNNER APPROACHES THE DEEP WOODS, ABODE OF THE POISON PYGMY PEOPLE...
STORY AND ART BY DON NEWTON
O MIGHTY PHANTOM, SLAVERS HAVE RAIDED THE U-THONGII VILLAGE! THEY TOOK MANY PEOPLE! AND MOST DREADFUL, OUR OLD CHIEF'S ONLY SON!
SO, THE SLAVE TRADERS BROACH MY WRATH BY ENTERING THE DOMAIN OF THE PHANTOM!
PHANTOM! PHANTOM! I MUST SEE THE PHANTOM!
KNUNJI, TEND TO THIS MAN'S COMFORT...
LLUMO, MY HORSE!...
I RIDE FOR THE U-THONGII VILLAGE!
D-8508
2

THE FOLLOWING DAY, A GRIM PHANTOM ENTERS THE HUT OF OÖLMAN, CHIEF OF THE U-THONGII.
GRIEF WEIGHS HEAVY ON ONE OF HIS YEARS. I FEAR HE WILL DIE!
YOU LIFT MY SPIRITS, O PHANTOM!.
I KNOW THE SORROW YOU BEAR, AND HAVE COME TO MAKE YOU A VOW! BEFORE THE SEASON OF RAINS, I WILL RETURN YOUR SON TO YOUR SIDE!
RALLY YOURSELF AND YOUR PEOPLE!
I WILL NOT ABANDON HOPE!
DURING THE RAID, I HEARD THEIR LEADER CALLED "VRUELLE"... DO YOU KNOW OF HIM?
BLAÄSCO VRUELLE! YES, I KNOW THAT NAME. AND I THINK I KNOW WHERE TO FIND HIM!
3

BLASCO VRUELLE! THE PHANTOM HAD ENCOUNTERED THE NOTORIOUS BARBARY PIRATE BEFORE. IT WAS A GOOD BET THAT VRUELLE'S SHIP WOULD BE DOCKED IN MARCADOS, A RUGGED COASTAL TOWN HOSPITABLE TO PRIVATEERS.



DAYS LATER, DISGUISED AS A SEAMAN, THE PHANTOM SOUGHT INFORMATION IN THE DINGY WATERFRONT INNS. EVENTUALLY, HIS PERSISTENCE PAID OFF....

CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE

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NOW THAT WEIGHS HARD ON ME! I BEEN IN TERRITORIAL PRISON AND I COME A GOOD WAY JUST TO SAIL WITH MY CAPTIN' AGIN'!
YOU LOOK A STOUT FELLOW... HOW'D YA LIKE TO SIGN ON MY SHIP? WE AIM TO LINK WITH VRUELLE IN VIRGINIA AND THEN GO AFTER SOME O' THEM BRITISH SHIPS WHAT'S GOIN' BACK AND FORTH TO THE COLONIES, WE FIGGER THE PICKIN'S TO BE GOOD!
THAT SOUNDS TO BE A PROPOSITION A MAN COULDN'T REFUSE! LET ME STAND YOU A TANKARD OF ALE!
DONE, MATE! GOOD TO HAVE YA ABOARD!
6

AS THE FIRST SLIVERS OF MORNING SUNLIGHT BREAK THE HORIZON, THE 'SEA DOG' CREAKS HEAVILY OUT OF THE MARCADOS HARBOR. THE STRONG WEST WIND CATCHES THE YELLOWED CANVAS OF THE SHIP'S SAILS, BREATHING NEW LIFE INTO THE AGING VESSEL AND SENDING IT SLICING THROUGH THE CRESCENDO OF ROLLING WAVES.

STANDING BY THE FOREMAST, 'SEAMAN WALKER' WATCHES THE SHORE FADE INTO A GOLDEN HAZE. WITH THE CHASE SLOWED, HIS EYES NOW SHIFT TO THE TRACKLESS OCEAN BEFORE HIM....

THE WEEKS ROLL BY, AND ON A BALMY SUMMER EVENING IN LATE JUNE, THE 'SEA DOG' ENTERS A SMALL VIRGINIA HARBOR.
THERE SHE BE, LADS! WEIGH ANCHOR AND WE'LL GO ASHORE FOR A BIT O' FUN.
WHILE THEY'RE HAVING 'FUN', I'M GOING AFTER VRUELLE!
THE SHIP DOCKS, AND ONCE AGAIN THE PHANTOM ROAMS THE WATERFRONT. SOON...
THAT'S IT!
THE FEW GUARDS PRESENT NO OBSTACLE...
THERE HE IS... SOUND ASLEEP!
REQUEST PERMISSION TO COME ABOARD, SIR!
7

YOU DEVIL! HOW DID YOU GET HERE?!
YOUR OLD FRIEND, CAPTAIN QUENCH, WAS KIND ENOUGH TO GIVE ME A LIFT OVER.... THOUGH HE DIDN'T REALIZE WHO I WAS, OR I DOUBT HE'D HAVE BEEN SO GENEROUS.
WHY? WHY?
YOU BROUGHT A LOAD OF MEN AND WOMEN ON YOUR SHIP. THEY WERE FROM THE U-THONGI TRIBE, AND UNDER MY PROTECTION. I'M TAKING THEM ALL BACK, AND YOU'RE GOING TO FURNISH THE SHIP!
IMPOSSIBLE! I'VE ALREADY SOLD THEM TO A SLAVE BROKER!
8

AND HE WOULD IN TURN SELL THEM HERE IN THE COLONIES?
YES, YES, IT'S OUT OF MY HANDS, I SWEAR IT!
TAKE ME TO THIS BROKER, AND IF YOU VALUE YOUR MISERABLE LIFE, YOU'D BETTER PRAY HE KNOWS WHO THEY WERE SOLD TO!
HAVING BROUGHT ALONG SUFFICIENT GOLD IN HIS SEA CHEST, THE PHANTOM HIRES A COACH TO CARRY HIMSELF AND THE TREMBLING PIRATE CLATTERING THROUGH THE DARK STREETS OF PICKETBOROUGH....
THAT'S HIS OFFICE ON THE SECOND FLOOR... HE LIVES THERE TOO!
LET'S PAY HIM A MIDNIGHT CALL!

CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE

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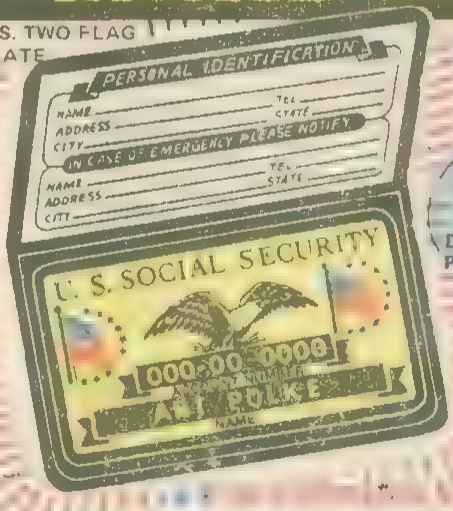

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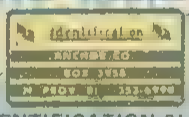

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IDENTIFICATION PLATE

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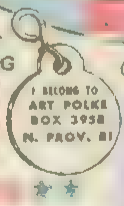

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QUENCH! YOU KILLED HIM!
WELL NOW, YA SEE, OLD QUENCH HAD A MIGHTY LEAN VOYAGE OVER. WE PLANNED TO TAKE A FEW SHIPS, BUT WE WAS PLAGUED WITH BAD LUCK... ALWAYS SOMETHIN' GOIN' WRONG.
I OFT' TIMES THOUGHT WE HAD A SABOTEUR ON BOARD! SO WE COME TO PORT EMPTY HANDED AND I WAS THINKIN', WHERE MIGHT QUENCH PICK UP A FEW COPPERS?
NOW, I REMEMBERS YER DEALIN'S WITH WATLEY THESE PAST YEARS...
'AND I'M THINKIN', HE MUST KEEP A TIDY SUM ABOUT, BEIN' A PROPER BUSINESSMAN AND ALL!
THIS MAN IS YOUR SABOTEUR! HE'S THE PHANTOM! HE CAME ON YOUR SHIP IN DISGUISE... HE'S AFTER ME AND THE SLAVES!
DROP BACK THAT CLOAK AND LET'S HAVE A SQUINT!
WELL, I'LL BE A FLOUNDER'S UNCLE IF IT AIN'T!

LOOK, QUENCH, YOU AND ME IS MATES. I KNOW WHERE WATLEY KEEPS MORE MONEY...YOU CAN HAVE IT ALL!
MORE MONEY!
IN YON CUPBOARD, HE'S GOT A METAL CHEST FULL OF GOLD PIECES!
GOLD, IS IT?!
BAM!
AFRR!! YA SCURVY RAT!
YOU'RE NOT TOO GOOD A SHOT WHEN A MAN'S BACK'S NOT TURNED!
BAM!

CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE

ARMY MEDALS Be a major, colonel or other officer! Polished metal replicas of officers' army insignias. Dress up your coat or shirt with these official looking gold or silver medals with pin on back.

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SECRET AGENT SPY CAMERA Easily concealed in the palm of your hand. Takes secret or surprise pictures as well as regular candid shots. So d

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100 FREE THINGS for FREE! [illegible] novelties, product samples, eye [illegible] from [illegible] cigarettes [illegible] that are [illegible] to send you [illegible] with [illegible] addresses to write for your 100 FREE things.

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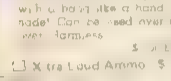
EXPLODING FOUNTAIN PEN looks like a regular fountain pen. But when they start to write—look out. It goes off with a bang like a hand grenade! Can be used over and over. Harmless.

$ [illegible] Each

☐ Xtra Loud Ammo $



SECRET SAFE Looks like an attractively bound bank [illegible] metal bottom. Keeps [illegible] valuables [illegible] money, etc. 4 x 6 x [illegible]

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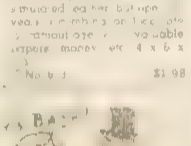

MAGIC DRAWER. This new item will thrill and amaze [illegible] one! Put any object into the drawer and at your command 'PRESTO!' it disappears! Only you will know the secret.

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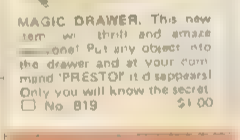
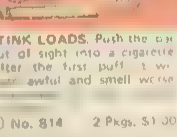


STINK LOADS. Push the [illegible] out of sight into a cigarette. After the first puff it will [illegible] awful and smell worse

☐ No. 814 2 Pkgs. $1.00



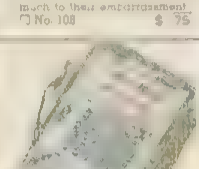
X RAY SPECS

Slip on a pair of these X Ray specs. This hilarious optical illusion allows you to seemingly see the bones of your hands, etc. of [illegible] part of [illegible]. Your friends will think you can see right through them.

☐ No. 115 $1.00 pr

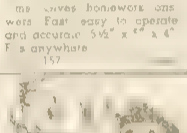
WHOOPIE CUSHION Secretly place it on someone's chair, couch. When your victim sits down—whist! the air and whoopie begin! Bigger sound effects better may need than desert bed, will fill the air with [illegible] their embarrassment.

☐ No. 108 $ .75



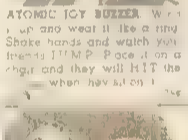
MAGIC BRAIN CALCULATOR. Adds, subtracts and multiplies [illegible] 999,999. No knowledge needed to solve math problems. Solves homework problems. Fast, easy to operate and accurate. 5½" x 4" x 4". Fits anywhere.

[illegible]



ATOMIC JOY BUZZER. When you and you shake hands and watch your friend JUMP! Place it on a cigar and they will HIT the [illegible] when they put on [illegible]

[illegible]

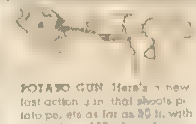


MAGIC SNOWSTORM. [illegible] miniature snowstorm indoors. Will actually cover a whole room. Watch the fun start when you place one of these almost invisible tablets on the burning end of a cigar and watch them run for the snow shovel.

☐ No. 105 .25¢ pkg.

5 Pkgs. for $1.00

SURPRISE PACKAGE. Are you willing to take a chance? We won't tell you what you will receive but because you're willing to gamble, we promise you much more than your money's worth.



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☐ No. 753 $1.49

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☐ No. 123 30¢ pkg.

ATOM PISTOL Fires red flashes with harmless [illegible] size gun. Modeled after replica of an 18th century dueling pistol. About the size of half-dollar yet barrel opens, lead hammer cocks and fires when trigger is pulled. Ramrod and ammunition included. Makes a great conversation piece that you will be proud to own.

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SPY SCOPE No larger than a fountain pen, looks like it blocks away. Excellent for all sports, counter spying, baseball, hikers. Powerful lenses optically ground to reproduce every detail. 8 power to escape, also converts into a 30-power

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'S 10 INSTRUMENTS IN ONE [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

CRACK!
DRIVEN TO THE FLOOR, VRUELLE INSTINCTIVELY FIGHTS FOR SURVIVAL!
THE CUTLASS OF THE DYING QUENCH OFFERS ONE LAST CHANCE FOR REPRIEVE!
NOTHING TO DEFEND MYSELF WITH... WAIT!.. THOSE ANDIRONS!
COME, PHANTOM, I'VE A TASTE OF STEEL FOR YOU!
THONG!
KLANG!
SSSH
TING!
BUT THE POKER PROVES TOO CLUMSY AND FRAGILE AGAINST THE CUTLASS!
13

STANG!
BAM!
WE'LL SAIL THAT LAST VOYAGE TOGETHER, MATE...
THE FATES METE OUT THEIR JUSTICE IN STRANGE AND VIOLENT WAYS TONIGHT!
WATLEY MUST KEEP RECORDS OF TRANSACTIONS... LET'S SEE...

HERE!..." TSU-MOK, MALE, ABOUT 20, TO SHANE BURGHER, PICKETBOROUGH, VIRGINIA..." THE CHIEF'S SON. A GOOD PLACE TO START!
RESUMING HIS CIVILIAN DISGUISE, THE PHANTOM CHECKS INTO A LOCAL INN FOR THE NIGHT. THE FOLLOWING DAY, HE PURCHASES A HORSE AND EXTENSIVE SUPPLIES.
SEVERAL HOURS LATER...
ACCORDING TO THE DIRECTIONS I WAS GIVEN, THE BURGHER PLANTATION SHOULD BE JUST BEYOND THAT RIDGE...
BANG! BANG!
GUNFIRE!
IN THAT CREEK BED... REDCOATS FIRING ON THE PLANTATION! THAT REALLY COMPLICATES THINGS!

STEALTHILY, THE PHANTOM NUDGES HIS HORSE TO THE BANK OF A NEARBY LAKE.
GOT TO ROUT THOSE SOLDIERS TO GET INSIDE THE PLANTATION... A KNOTTY PROBLEM!
WAIT! THAT CREEK BED THEY'RE IN IS ACTUALLY PART OF BURGHER'S IRRIGATION SYSTEM!
HE CONTROLS THE LAKE WATER BY THOSE SLUICES!
IF I'VE ENOUGH BLACK POWDER TO BLOW THEM, THE DIVERSION SHOULD BE ENOUGH!
MOMENTS LATER...
BOOM!
FLOOD WATER! FALL BACK!!!
RRRMM!
16
CONTINUE AFTER NEXT TWO PAGES

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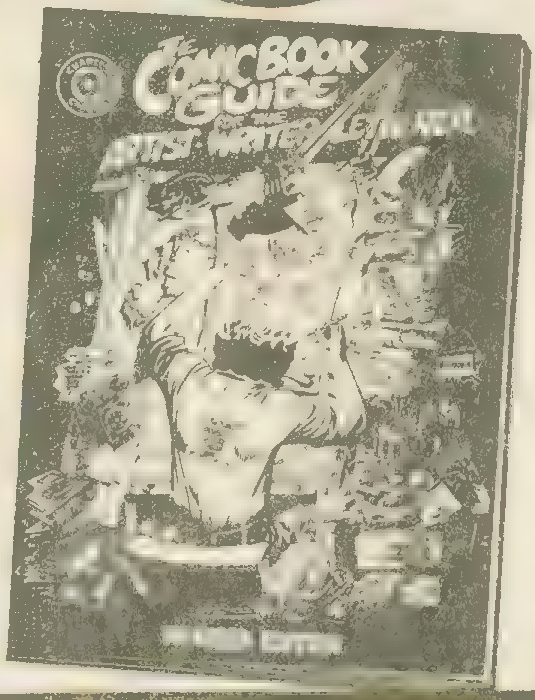

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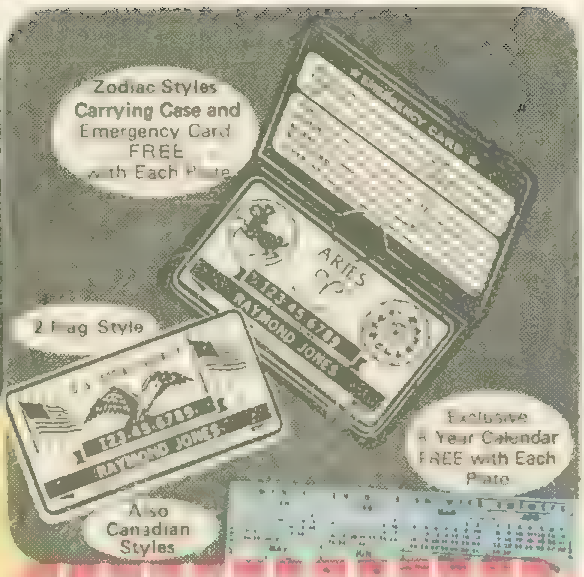
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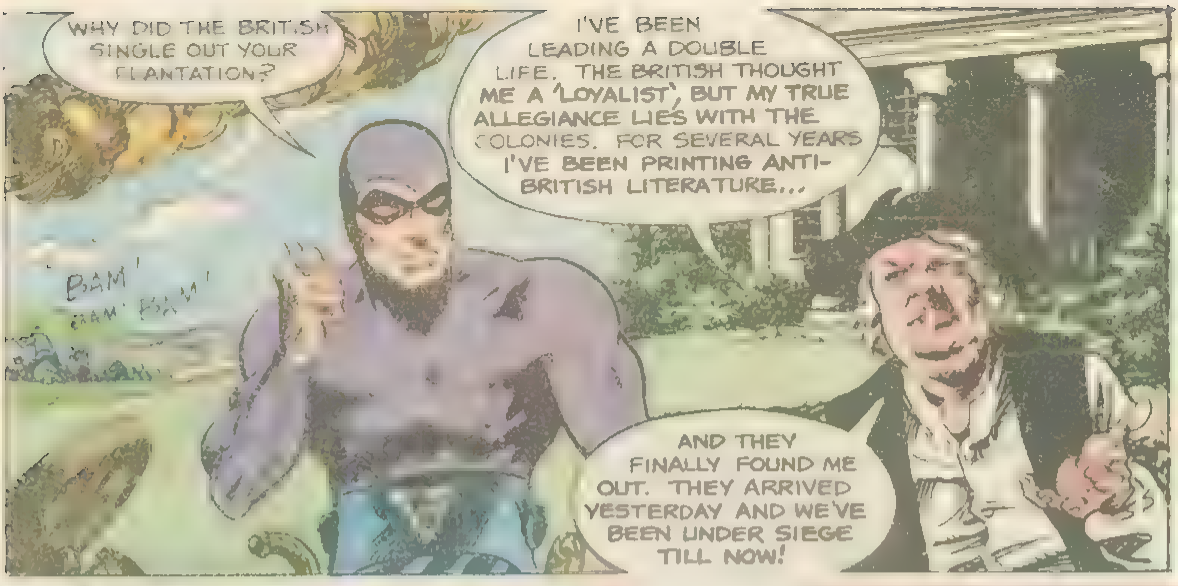
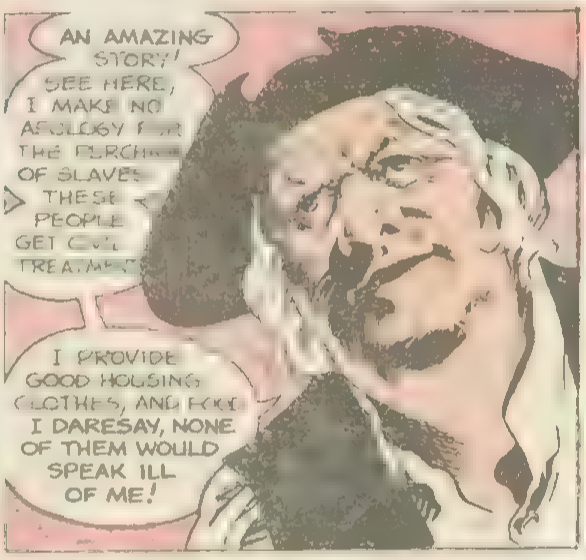
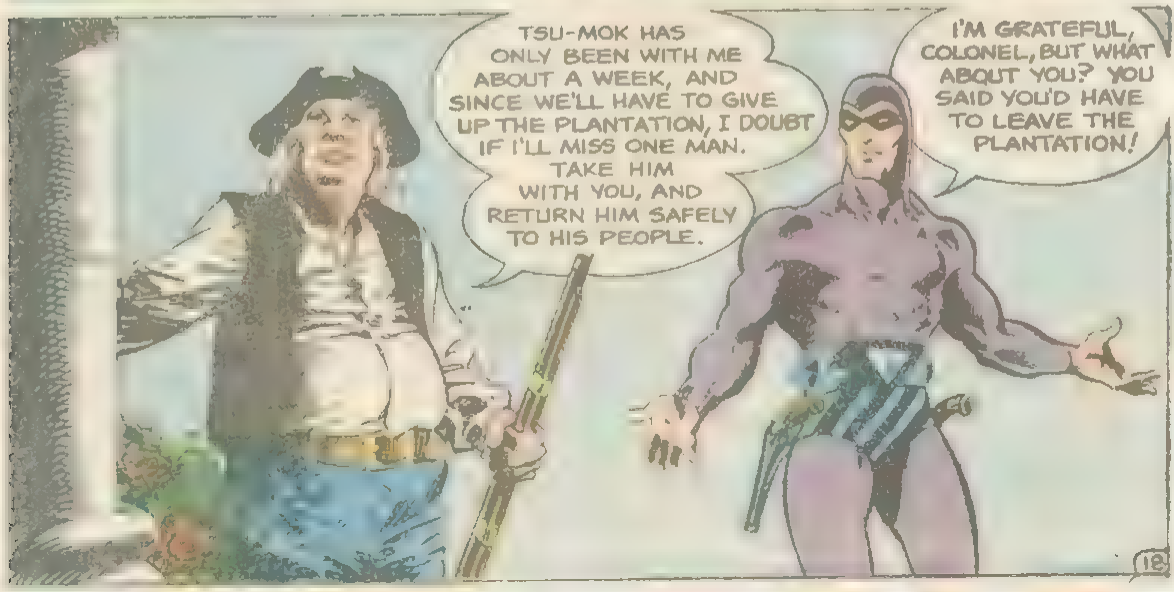
SOMEONE'S BLOWN THE SLUICES!
THAT TURNS THE ADVANTAGE! TAKE THEM, BOYS!!!
RIDER APPROACHING!
HOLD YOUR FIRE!
I'M LOOKING FOR SHANE BURGHER.
I'M COLONEL BURGHER. AND MIGHT YOU BE OUR UNKNOWN ALLY?
I BLEW THE SLUICES, YES.
THEN WE OWE YOU A DEBT OF GRATITUDE.
WHO ARE YOU, AND WHY ARE YOU MASKED? WERE YOU PERHAPS MAIMED IN BATTLE?
I'M CALLED THE 'PHANTOM'. MY REASONS FOR BEING MASKED ARE TOO COMPLEX TO GO INTO HERE!
WELL, WE'RE MIGHTY GLAD TO HAVE A MAN OF YOUR METTLE WITH OUR CAUSE.


WHY DID THE BRITISH SINGLE OUT YOUR PLANTATION?
I'VE BEEN LEADING A DOUBLE LIFE. THE BRITISH THOUGHT ME A 'LOYALIST', BUT MY TRUE ALLEGIANCE LIES WITH THE COLONIES. FOR SEVERAL YEARS I'VE BEEN PRINTING ANTI-BRITISH LITERATURE...
BAM! BAM! BAM!
AND THEY FINALLY FOUND ME OUT. THEY ARRIVED YESTERDAY AND WE'VE BEEN UNDER SIEGE TILL NOW!

I'LL BE BLUNT COLONEL. I'VE COME THOUSANDS OF MILES TO KEEP A VOW TO A SICK OLD MAN...
A VOW?
AFTER A WALK, THE PHANTOM TELLS BURGHER OF HIS STRANGE


AN AMAZING STORY!
SEE HERE, I MAKE NO APOLOGY FOR THE PURCHASE OF SLAVES. THESE PEOPLE GET CIVIL TREATMENT
I PROVIDE GOOD HOUSING, CLOTHES, AND FOOD. I DARESAY, NONE OF THEM WOULD SPEAK ILL OF ME!


TSU-MOK HAS ONLY BEEN WITH ME ABOUT A WEEK, AND SINCE WE'LL HAVE TO GIVE UP THE PLANTATION, I DOUBT IF I'LL MISS ONE MAN. TAKE HIM WITH YOU, AND RETURN HIM SAFELY TO HIS PEOPLE.
I'M GRATEFUL, COLONEL, BUT WHAT ABOUT YOU? YOU SAID YOU'D HAVE TO LEAVE THE PLANTATION!

BY TOMORROW THE BRITISH WILL BE BACK IN FORCE. WE'LL HEAD FOR THE BACKWOODS, MAYBE JOIN UP WITH WASHINGTON.
I WANT TO GET TSU-MOK BACK TO AFRICA. I HAVE A FRIEND OVER HERE... A MAN OF SOME INFLUENCE. I THINK HE CAN HELP US.
MY FOREMAN WILL TAKE YOU TO TSU-MOK NOW.
.... AND WHERE WILL YOU GO NEXT?
DAYS LATER... PHILADELPHIA.
BY AMBER CANDLELIGHT
A SOLITARY FIGURE WORKS
THE NIGHT..
CLINK!
MR WALKER! EACH TIME WE MEET, IT IS UN-EXPECTED
BUT WHY HERE? ... NOW?
19

I'M IN YOUR COUNTRY ON A MATTER OF GRAVE IMPORTANCE. I THINK YOU CAN HELP ME.
ANYTHING!
ONCE AGAIN, THE PHANTOM RELATES HIS STRANGE TALE.
THAT'S THE STORY, SIR. NOW I'M ASKING YOUR AID IN GETTING BACK TO AFRICA WITH TSU-MOK... THEN I'LL RETURN FOR THE OTHERS!
I CAN ARRANGE PASSAGE ON A FRENCH SHIP, OUT OF CANADA, BUT IN EXCHANGE, I WANT YOUR PROMISE NOT TO RETURN. SEVERAL YEARS AGO, YOU SAVED ME FROM THIEVES IN PARIS. YOU WERE ONE MAN AGAINST SIX. IF YOU TRIED TO FREE ALL THE SLAVES, YOU WOULD BE ONE MAN AGAINST A NATION! ...A NATION ALREADY CAUGHT UP IN AN INTERNAL STRUGGLE FOR INDEPENDENCE. YOU WOULD, I FEAR, GIVE UP YOUR LIFE TO NO AVAIL.
RETURN TO YOUR OWN LAND, WHERE YOU CAN DO FAR GREATER GOOD. CARRY ON YOUR FIGHT THERE. TOMORROW, IN THIS VERY TOWN, A SIGNIFICANT DOCUMENT WILL BE SIGNED. I'D LIKE YOU AND TSU-MOK TO WITNESS THE SIGNING AND CARRY ITS MESSAGE OF FREEDOM AND LIBERTY BACK TO YOUR HOMELAND.
YOU ASK MUCH OF ME.
DO YOU EXPECT ME TO DESERT THE OTHERS BECAUSE I MIGHT FACE DANGER?!
IT IS NOT MY WAY!
20

YOU ARE A MAN OF WISDOM... SURELY YOU CANNOT JUSTIFY THIS BARBARIC SLAVE TRADE!
SLAVERY WILL NOT ALWAYS BE WITH US... BUT SUCH CHANGE TAKES TIME, MY FRIEND.
THE DOCUMENT THAT WILL BE SIGNED TOMORROW WILL BE THE FIRST STEP TOWARD FREEDOM FOR ALL MEN IN THIS COUNTRY.
THE FOLLOWING DAY... INDEPENDENCE HALL.
...SHADOWED ...TORY ABOVE...

SOME WEEKS LATER, TSU-MOK AND THE PHANTOM ARE ABOARD A SHIP BOUND FOR FRANCE...
A SECOND VESSEL CARRIES THEM TO AFRICA, WHERE THEY TRAVEL OVERLAND...
TO HOME!
THROUGH THE LONG MONTHS, OOLMAN CLUNG TO LIFE, KNOWING THE PHANTOM WOULD SUCCEED! BUT WHAT LIES AHEAD FOR OUR PEOPLE?.. .. AND THAT FARAWAY LAND CALLED 'AMERICA'?
I SUCCEEDED ONLY PARTIALLY, BUT WHAT I'VE SEEN GIVES ME HOPE THAT THE BLOT OF SLAVERY WILL SOMEDAY BE FOREVER WIPED CLEAN! IT MIGHT TAKE YEARS... EVEN CENTURIES!..BUT THE PHANTOM WILL NOT REST UNTIL THAT DAY COMES!
the end

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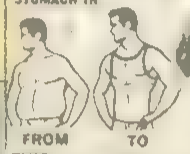

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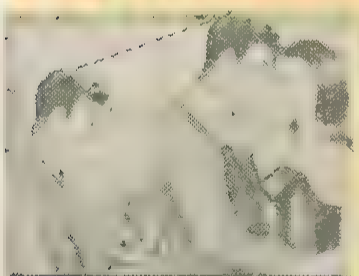

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PHANTOM MAIL

I anxiously searched the racks for issue #71 of the PHANTOM. I can sum it up as the best issue you've published to date. The cover separated itself from all the others by the captivating color. Bright colors but yet they gave a dark dread mood for the story.

Don Newton did his usual great job. He's beginning to get a real feel for the PHANTOM. He's making him more muscular, more noble, and mysterious with each succeeding issue he does. His jungle background has an air of mystery to it. You can almost feel the jungle heat. His layouts and facial features are becoming very Neal Adamsish. I'm sure he's inspired much success and the sales have increased.

The story moved smoothly and the dialogue was as near to life as it could possibly be. Your stories in the last few issues have really humanized the PHANTOM. He has become very 3-D and it's made the stories much better.

It would be very interesting to see a layout of Skull Cave, maybe even a map of the PHANTOM's domain. The PHANTOM's paperback novels by Lee Falk mention other hideouts where the PHANTOM stayed Perhaps future issues can tell adventures about them.

Sincerely yours,
Donald C. Rhodes II

I bought the 71st issue of the PHANTOM yesterday and must say that I am impressed. Don Newton's art is absolutely fantastic! Although I do have one complaint about his art. That is, Don NEVER draws eyes on the PHANTOM, just little triangles. Why don't you draw an issue that shows the PHANTOM with eyes or at least eye slits?

The PHANTOM's covers have got to be the BEST comic covers I have ever seen! They certainly have a different effect from the conventional comic covers. Could you explain what kind of medium Don uses for these covers?

Mike Fisher
Charleston, SC

Eye slits? You've gotta be kidding, Mike. Where would Little Orphan Annie be with pupils? Where would Dagwood be without his cowlicks? Let's face it, some things just can't be changed!

As for Don's paintings, they're acrylics, rendered thick like oils. This all-purpose medium is ideal for Don, who can also blend his colors more smoothly, like watercolors, when these effects are needed.

PHANTOM #72 was fantastic except for one major error. I have been a PHANTOM phan since I was six years old and know an error when I see one. In the original story of The PHANTOM he wears his skull ring on his right hand and on his left hand is his "good mark" ring. (once given the mark, gives the bearer protection by The PHANTOM) Well, on page 10 (second from the last panel) in issue #72 there's a picture showing The PHANTOM shooting his automatic. The skull ring is on his left hand! Please explain why.

A Phantom Phan Forever,
Brian Paynter
De Pere, Wisc.

The editor claims the artist doesn't know his left hand from his right.

The artist insists it looked right to him, as he drew that panel by looking at a mirror image of his own hand.

The writer says the PHANTOM dressed in the dark that morning. Nobody's perfect, Brian!

They say all good things must come to an end, but maybe The PHANTOM will be different. Maybe the quality will keep coming. For the sake of PHANTOM readers everywhere, and they are legion, keep the quality coming.

It started several issues back. A strange revitalizing force flowed out of the pages. The illustration greatly improved. I can't recall better PHANTOM art since the days of Jim Aparo. The four or five page vignettes were discarded and in their place, a full book-length mystery-adventure. The editing strengthened, even the lettering seemed to firm up. Story credits appeared consistently in each issue. In short, EVERYTHING got better.

However, the greatest improvement was in the character of the PHANTOM himself. He's no longer the wishy-washy jungle hero he was for so many issues. He now has a distinctive AURA and it comes across in the pages. The PHANTOM is an awesome, imposing, mysterious figure. He is a little frightening, yet fascinating. Mighty, yet just. Fierce when crossed, yet understanding when the need arises. Gentlemen! You have given back the PHANTOM his soul! The last panel of issue no. 71 sums it up so well:

Who is the PHANTOM? Is he man, or myth?

A fanatic lone wolf avenger, or a dedicated officer of the law? Has he ever known failure?

Will he ever die?

Die? The PHANTOM? The spirit of the PHANTOM will never die. It merely passes from one body to the next. The Bandari know:

THE PHANTOM IS DEAD!
LONG LIVE THE PHANTOM!

Michael G. Bryan
Seminole, Florida

You've said it all, Michael. We tried, sales improved, but not enough. We regret to announce that this is the last issue. But the PHANTOM will live forever ... and someday maybe he'll be back as the star of his own comic magazine again. Thanks to all of you who cared. Farewell.

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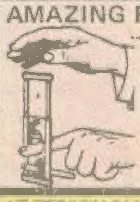
AMAZING FINGER CHOPPER



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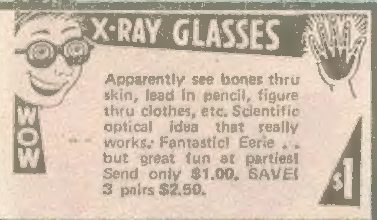
X-RAY GLASSES



Apparently see bones thru skin, lead in pencil, figure thru clothes, etc. Scientific optical idea that really works. Fantastic! Eerie . . . but great fun at parties! Send only **$1.00**. SAVE! 3 pairs **$2.50**.

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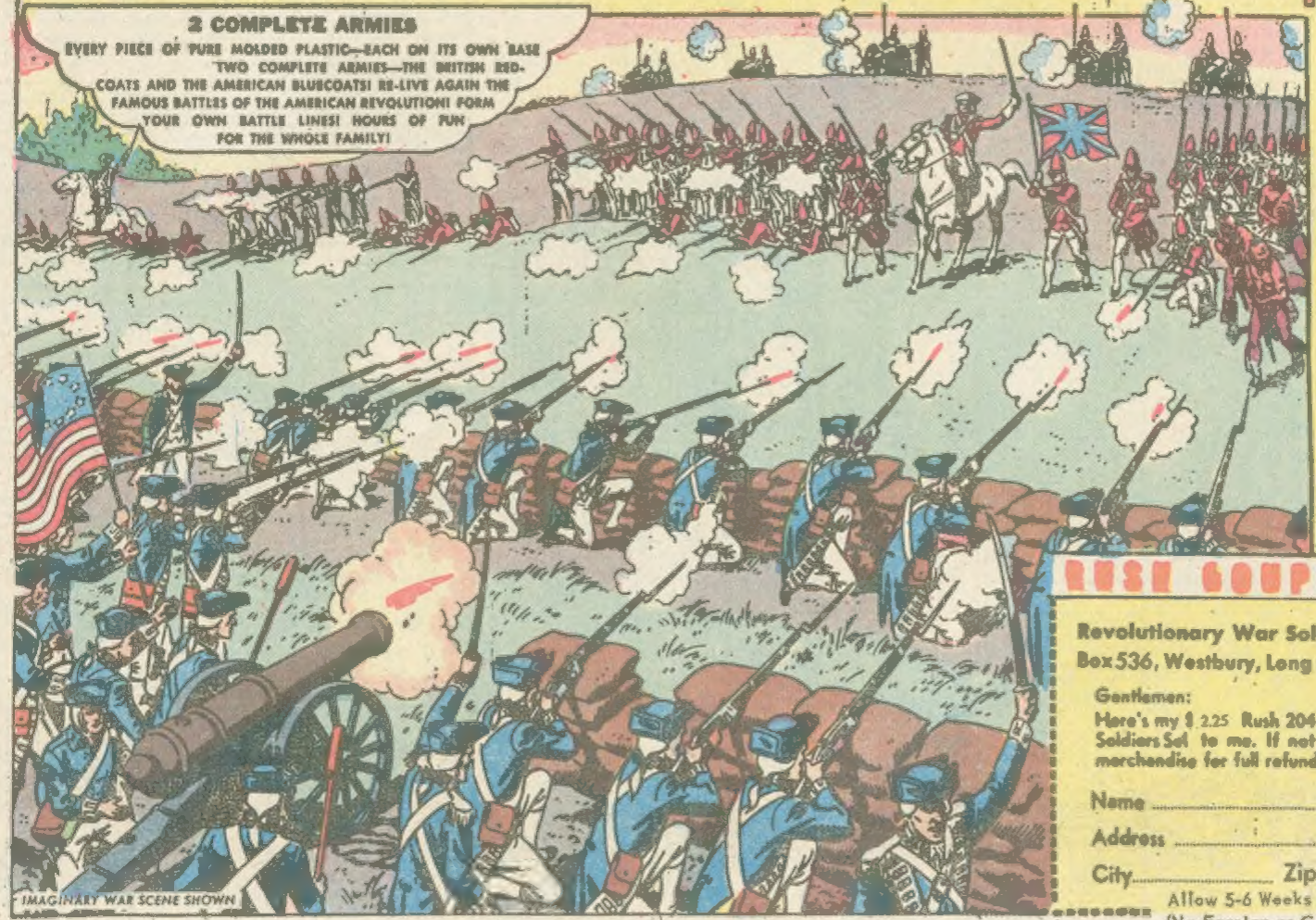

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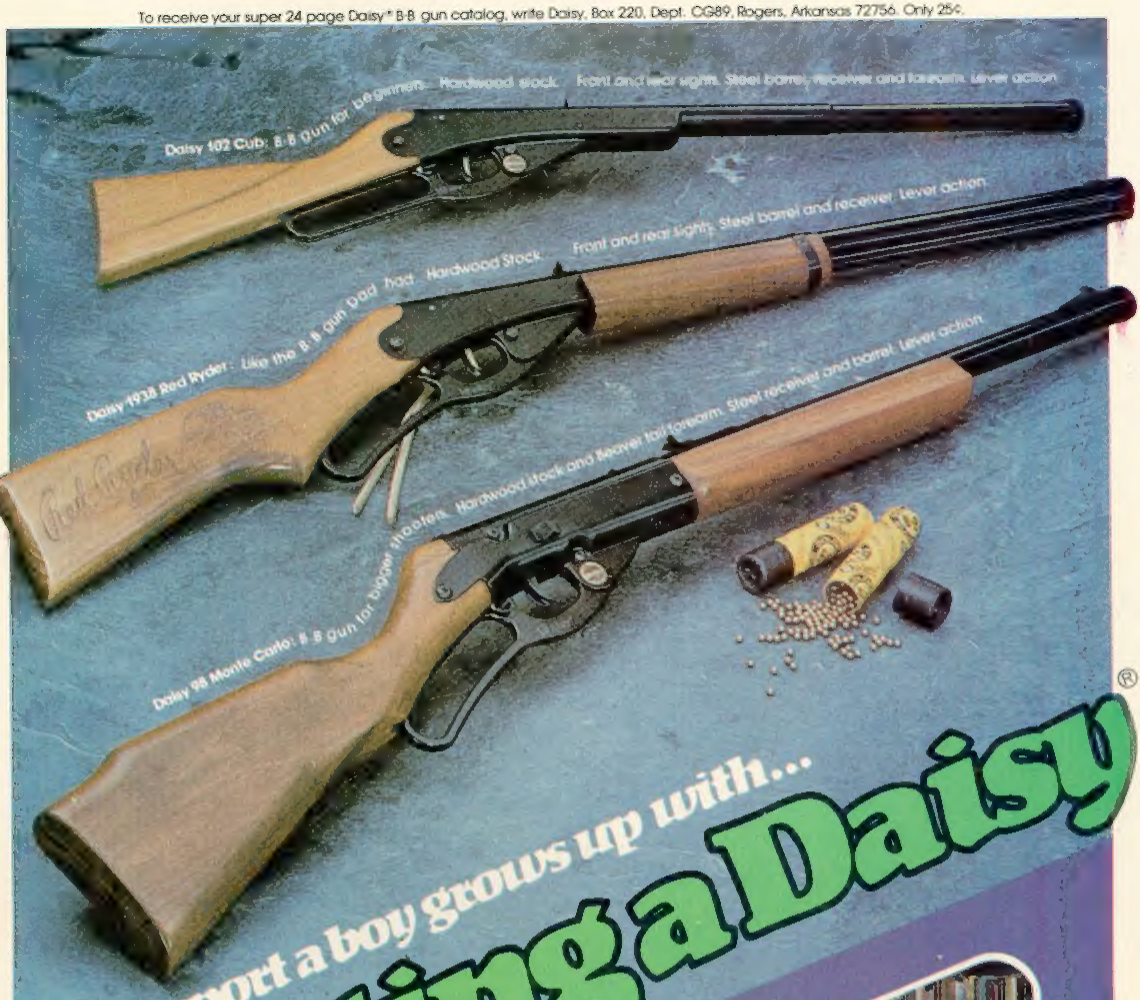
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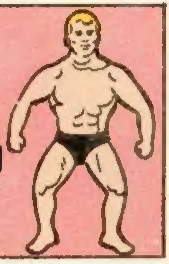

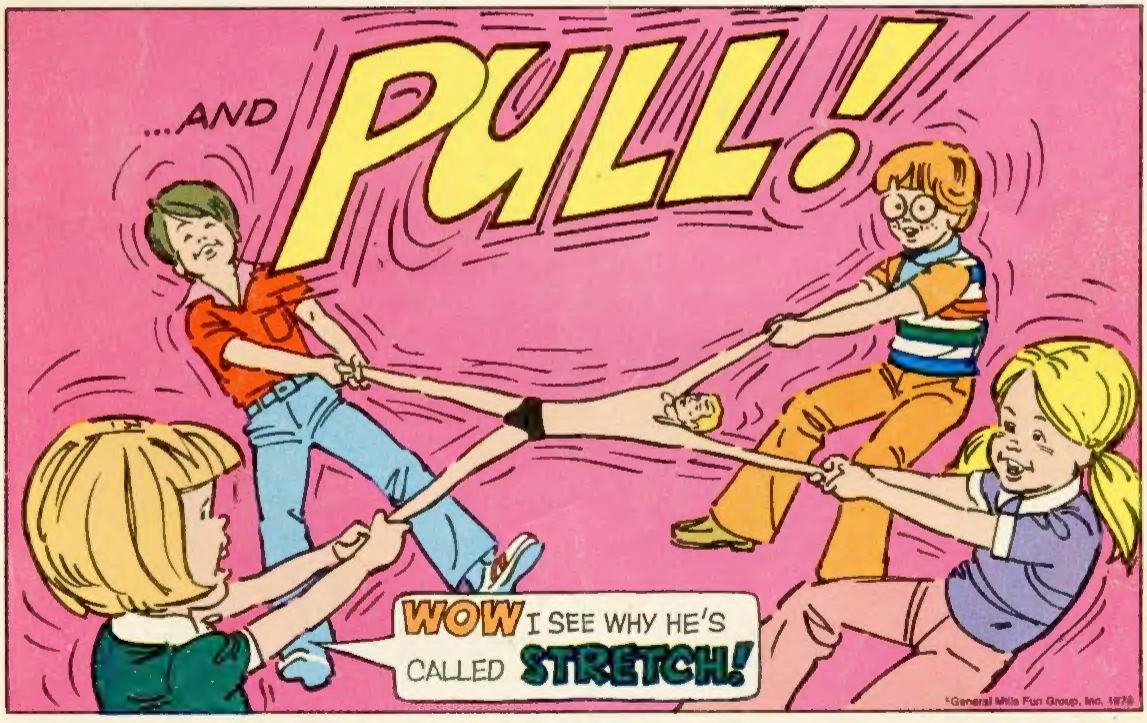

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